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24 June 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, Re the Security Review of the Transcript of the

[REDACTED]

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1. I telephoned Bill Woodruff today to make him aware of the approach we were taking as a participant (along with State and Defense) in the security review of the transcript of the Senate secret session [REDACTED] I told Woodruff we would, of course, prefer to have all references to CIA and its activities excluded from the published version of the secret debate but we felt this was rather unrealistic and we were concentrating our efforts on having matters of a sensitive operational nature deleted.

2. Woodruff expressed rather deep concern over this position. He said he felt this left our Committee Chairmen, who had provided funds to the Agency, vulnerable to charges of deception. He thinks the Agency should take the position that everything pertaining to CIA should be expunged from the published record. I asked him if he thought our Committee Chairmen (Ellender and Stennis) would support us in the type of position he suggested and he said "probably not." He added that Senator Ellender probably would not take as strong of a position on this issue as he had.

3. I told Woodruff I appreciated his reasoning and emphasized that we were not advocating the release of any of the transcript. We merely felt that we should stress those areas of vital security interest to us. I said that in the final analysis the White House would have to make a decision as to what should be deleted with regard to [REDACTED] matters of this sort.

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4. I told Woodruff we had not gotten much support in defending positions such as he advocated and we didn't feel the Agency should be put in the position of having to argue these points with the Foreign Relations Committee. I assured him, however, that I would pass his views on.

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